

The Honorable Benjamin H. Settle

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON AT SEATTLE**

SHILLING, et al.,

Plaintiffs,

v.

DONALD J. TRUMP, in his official capacity as
President of the United States, et al.,

Defendants.

Case No. 2:25-cv-241

**DECLARATION OF CATHRINE
SCHMID IN SUPPORT OF
PLAINTIFFS' MOTION FOR
PRELIMINARY INJUNCTION**

I, Cathrine Schmid, declare as follows:

1. My name is Cathrine Joy Schmid, and I also use the nickname "Katie." I am a plaintiff in the above-captioned action. I have actual knowledge of the matters stated in this declaration.

2. I am a 40-year-old woman, and I live in Baltimore, Maryland with my wife.

3. I am a member of Gender Justice League.

4. I am a Sergeant First Class in the U.S. Army, and am currently stationed at Fort George G. Meade, Maryland.

5. I enlisted in the U.S. Army in 2005. I have been serving for more than twenty

1 years.

2 6. I was exposed to military life at an early age. My father served in the military
3 when I was a child. I have always been a patriotic American with a desire to serve others, and
4 was drawn to opportunities presented by serving in the Army. As my career matured, I became
5 only more devoted to these ideals, to the Army, to my unit, to my mission, and to my fellow
6 Soldiers. I am proud to put on my uniform each day and serve my country.

7 7. My military occupational specialty is 35N (Signals Intelligence Analyst) within
8 the Army, and I bear the Special Qualification Identifier of Q (Equal Opportunity Advisor), and
9 the Additional Skill Indicators of 1B (Sexual Harassment/Assault Response & Prevention Level
10 I) and 3Y (Army Space Cadre). I currently perform duties as Brigade Equal Opportunity Advisor
11 for the 704th Military Intelligence Brigade.

12 8. Before my current role, I performed duties as a Multi-Domain Intelligence Non-
13 Commissioned Officer In Charge, Senior Technical Intelligence Sergeant, Platoon Sergeant,
14 Signals Intelligence Sergeant, Squad Leader, Multifunction Team Leader, Brigade Land and
15 Ammunition NCO, Brigade Current Operations NCO, Signals Intelligence Analyst, All-Source
16 Analysis System Master Analyst, Human Intelligence Collector, and Counterintelligence Agent.

17 9. I am transgender. I was assigned the sex of male at birth. I knew from the age of
18 five or six that I am female.

19 10. I began to come to terms with my gender identity approximately eleven years ago.
20 In 2013, in between missions while deployed to Baghdad, Iraq, I came to terms with my own
21 identity. Following my return to my home station in the US, I started to see a mental health
22 professional who diagnosed me with gender dysphoria.

23 11. I began living openly as a woman in 2014.

24 12. In consultation with health care professionals, I have taken clinically appropriate

1 steps to transition, in accordance with accepted standards of care and Army policy. I completed
 2 my medical transition plan in August of 2018, and the Army considered my diagnosis of Gender
 3 Dysphoria resolved in October of 2018. I require minimal ongoing medical care related to my
 4 transition, involving only commonly accessible oral estrogen tablets.

5 13. I have taken legal steps to transition. In June 2015, I legally changed my legal
 6 first and middle name to Cathrine Joy. At that time, I also changed my gender marker to female
 7 on my driver's license, passport, and social security records. In October 2016, I received Army
 8 approval to change my DEERS marker to Female in DOD records.

9 14. I have worked with my chain of command throughout and since my transition,
 10 and I have relied upon their approvals in deciding how to proceed with my transition in the
 11 workplace. Both my chain of command and my fellow enlisted personnel have expressed their
 12 support to me throughout that process.

13 15. For the past eight years, I have been addressed by female pronouns and have used
 14 female facilities while at work, without any incident or disruption to my duties or the duties of
 15 any other service member.

16 16. I have engaged in speech and conduct disclosing my transgender status and
 17 expressing my gender identity, including by coming out to my chain of command and my fellow
 18 service members, taking steps to transition, and living openly as a woman in military life. I want
 19 to continue to be able to engage in speech and conduct disclosing my transgender status and
 20 expressing my womanhood.

21 17. The fact that I am transgender has not prevented me from performing my duties,
 22 nor has my transgender status prevented others from performing theirs. I provide expert,
 23 professional, and valuable services for the Army in the field of military intelligence and as a
 24 trusted leader of US Army Soldiers. My performance of those duties strengthen our nation's

1 military readiness.

2 18. In fact, being able to serve openly as a transgender individual has made me a
3 stronger asset to the military. I am able to function as a productive, healthy member of the
4 military, and I am able to forge stronger relationships with others in my unit. Comradery is an
5 absolute necessity in any unit, and mutual trust is the single most important factor in
6 cohesiveness. By being open and transparent about my own experiences and background, I am
7 able to foster mutual understanding with my fellow Soldiers, helping to build an environment
8 where every Soldier can focus on the mission rather than spending mental energy concealing
9 aspects of themselves. My journey has equipped me with unique insights into building resiliency,
10 which is a skill I teach Junior Soldiers as part of my primary duties, and my visible commitment
11 to the Army values of Integrity and Personal Courage has become an immutable characteristic of
12 my leadership philosophy.

13 19. I have received numerous awards and decorations for my service, including the
14 prestigious Sergeant Audie Murphy Award, an honor given only to those who have contributed
15 significantly to the development of a professional Non-Commissioned Officer Corps and combat
16 ready Army. My other awards and decorations include a Meritorious Service Medal, a Joint
17 Service Commendation Medal, five Army Commendation Medals, two Joint Service
18 Achievement Medals, six Army Achievement Medals, and the Basic Army Space Cadre badge. I
19 earned the majority of those awards and decorations since coming out as transgender and
20 commencing my transition. I have also been promoted since coming out as transgender to my
21 chain of command.

22 20. Since the Executive Order banning my service was released, I have felt extreme
23 distress and tremendous anguish. This order, and the associated orders regarding transgender
24 individuals, are an abrupt change in Department of Defense policy, contain untrue and harmful

1 statements about my medical requirements and my ability to meet Army standards, and demean
2 the value of my past 20 years of dedicated service to the military.

3 21. The executive orders also contain explicit statements that by virtue of being
4 transgender I am living a falsehood, at conflict with “a Soldier’s commitment to an honorable,
5 truthful, and disciplined lifestyle” and that simply by interacting with my fellow Soldiers I am
6 behaving in a way that is “not consistent with the humility and selflessness required of a service
7 member.” These accusations are false and are an affront to the dignity and respect due to a U.S.
8 Army Soldier.

9 22. As I experience the direct harm of the policies that would ban me from service, I
10 am also suffering the disheartening effects of seeing my own chain of command and fellow
11 Soldiers, for whom I would lay down my life, being told that I—by my very existence—am a
12 threat to them.

13 23. This Order also causes me great fear and anxiety as to my wife’s health and
14 wellbeing. As a disabled adult, she relies on care and treatment provided under the Army’s
15 Exceptional Family Member Program, and this threat to my career also threatens the continuity
16 of her care.

17 24. Nevertheless, since this Order was issued I have remained steadfast in my duties.
18 I still conduct physical training, I still provide advice and guidance to my Commander on the
19 issues affecting the Soldiers in my unit, and I provide leadership and professional development
20 to those junior to me. I continue to fulfill my duties because I stand firm in my responsibility to
21 train, mentor, and lead the Soldiers of my unit, and ensure that our mission is accomplished.

22 25. A ban against open service would affect my ability to fulfill my remaining service
23 requirements, or to maintain employment in the military at all, and has potentially threatened my
24 future retirement benefits. Serving in the Army is my calling. I have served for more than twenty

years, and currently have a mandatory Service Remaining Requirement in my current duty position until 30 June 2026. My intent has long been, and remains, to finish my term of service in my current role as Equal Opportunity Advisor, and thereafter to apply for a two-year position as a First Sergeant within my current unit—a position which aligns with my dedication to leading Soldiers. Although I am eligible for retirement at the end of my current position, I do not plan to retire. This ban throws my future and livelihood into jeopardy.

I declare under the penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

DATED: February 12, 2025


Cathrine Joy Schmid (Feb 12, 2025 18:20 EST)

CATHRINE SCHMID